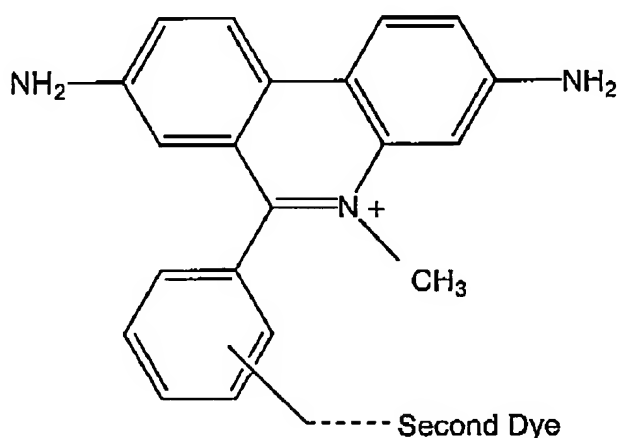


Stravrianopoulos et al.; Serial No.: 10/764,389; Filed: January 23, 2004
Page 3 [Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.115 (In Response To The July 13, 2006 Office Action)]
– January 13, 2006

Listing of Claims:

287. (Previously Presented) A heterodimeric dye composition, said composition comprising a first dye that comprises a phenanthridinium moiety; and a second dye that is different from said first dye, said second dye being attached through the phenyl ring of said phenanthridinium moiety.

288. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A heterodimeric dye composition of ~~claim 287~~, having the structure



wherein said ~~second dye~~ Second Dye is not a phenanthridinium moiety.

289. (Previously Presented) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 288, wherein said Second Dye is substituted in any of the *ortho*, *meta* or *para* positions of the phenyl ring.

290. (Previously Presented) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 289, wherein said Second Dye is substituted in the *meta* position of the phenyl ring.

Enz-61

Stravrianopoulos et al.; Serial No.: 10/764,389; Filed: January 23, 2004
Page 4 [Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.115 (In Response To The July 13, 2006 Office Action)]
– January 13, 2006

291. (Currently Amended) The heterodimeric dye composition of claims ~~289 or 290~~ 288, wherein said second dye comprises a thiazole, a fluorescein, a thiazole derivative, or a fluorescein derivative.

292. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 288, wherein said Second Dye is attached to said structure through a rigid linker arm.

293. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 292, wherein said rigid linker arm comprises one or more peptide bonds.

294. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 288, further comprising a bromine or chlorine counter-ion.

295. (New) The composition of claim 287, wherein said second dye is attached to said phenyl ring through a rigid linker arm.

296. (New) The composition of claim 295, wherein said rigid linker arm comprises one or more peptide bonds.

297. (New) The composition of claim 287, wherein said second dye is substituted in any of the *ortho*, *meta* or *para* positions of the phenyl ring.

298. (New) The composition of claim 297, wherein said second dye is substituted in the *meta* position of the phenyl ring.

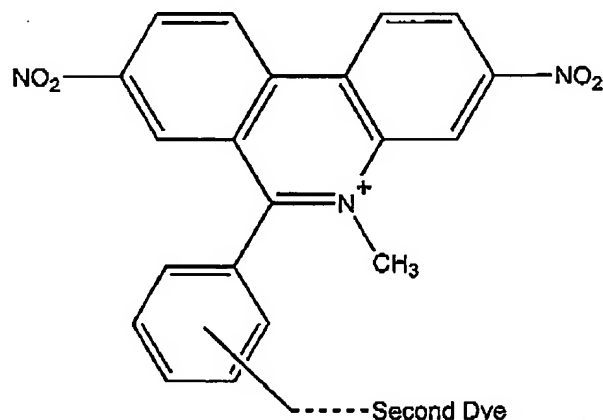
299. (New) The composition of claims 287, wherein said second dye comprises a thiazole, a fluorescein, a thiazole derivative, or a fluorescein derivative.

Enz-61

Stravrianopoulos et al.; Serial No.: 10/764,389; Filed: January 23, 2004
Page 5 [Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.115 (In Response To The July 13, 2006 Office Action)]
– January 13, 2006

300. (New) The composition of claim 287, further comprising a bromine or chlorine counter-ion.

301. (New) A heterodimeric dye composition having the structure



wherein said Second Dye is not a phenanthridinium moiety.

302. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 301, wherein said Second Dye is substituted in any of the *ortho*, *meta* or *para* positions of the phenyl ring.

303. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 302, wherein said Second Dye is substituted in the *meta* position of the phenyl ring.

304. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claims 301, wherein said second dye comprises a thiazole, a fluorescein, a thiazole derivative, or a fluorescein derivative.

305. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 301, wherein said Second Dye is attached to said structure through a rigid linker arm.

Enz-61

Stravrianopoulos et al.; Serial No.: 10/764,389; Filed: January 23, 2004
Page 6 [Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115 (In Response To The July 13, 2006 Office Action)]
– January 13, 2006

306. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 305, wherein said rigid linker arm comprises one or more peptide bonds.

307. (New) The heterodimeric dye composition of claim 306, further comprising a bromine or chlorine counter-ion.

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Enz-61